



Office of the Fire Chief - Fire Chief Richie Bowers Fall 2009 - Edition 5



Fire Chief Bowers, Montgomery County Police representatives, Charity Campaign Manager Larry Pignone, and County Executive Ike Leggett kicked off the Montgomery County Charity Campaign, Monday, November 2nd at the Public Safety Training Academy (PSTA). They addressed day-work Battalion Chiefs and above, along with civilian employees, in the standing room only crowd.

“This year’s campaign has been changed to make it easier for you to give to the charities that are most important to you and your family. The campaign has been improved this year in response to suggestions made by county employees. This year you can give by check or credit card. There are three Special Giving Choices. I am particularly pleased that this year we have for the first time an opportunity to give to the Montgomery County Public Safety Memorial, which will be built at the site of the new Public Safety Headquarters, along with HEROES, Inc. I hope you will join me in taking advantage of this opportunity. “



Pictured left to right: Fire Chief Richie Bowers, County Executive Isiah Leggett, Assistant Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Charity Campaign Manager Larry Pignone, and Assistant Police Chief Betsy Davis

Division of Operations - Chief Steve Lohr



As this edition of the newsletter goes to press, the Operations Division has just completed the first round of the revised format quarterly officer meetings. My intent moving forward is to meet separately with the bargaining unit officers on a quarterly basis so that staff can focus solely on their needs and concerns.

I also believe that a more uniform message will be available to the field by having this face-to-face time available with my entire staff. The feedback I have received so far has been positive. Thank you all for your patience and cooperation with the structural changes we have initiated in Scheduling and Telestaff. The final big change goes into effect December 1st when the 24 hr/month medic time requirement for paramedic officers will be adjusted.

EMS Assistant Chief Mike McAdams has been accepted into the Master's Program in Homeland Security at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. Congratulations Mike! Also, Battalion Chief Barry Reid, Battalion Chief Shane Darwick, and GIS Specialist Sarah Ierley were part of the Incident Management Team (IMT) assigned to the Station Fire in Los Angeles, California. Thanks to all of you for a job well done!

The Safe Structure Fire Fighting Panel has submitted its draft recommendations for policy changes. I want to commend their efforts on a timely, job well done. As a result, the Fire Chief and Senior Staff will review the proposed changes for policy modification. Until then, be vigilant about completing size-ups, including: performing a 360 degree view of the structure; respecting the increased use of light-weight construction materials throughout the County; and maintaining crew integrity when operating in IDLH environments.

We struggled needlessly during the pilot of MCTime. From my chair, it appears that a number of employees did not complete the required training in a timely fashion. Further, many supervisors failed to follow the posted directions for overtime approval, leave conversion, paper timesheet audits, and manager approval of the timecards. When we were up against the payroll deadline on the first pay pilot period pilot, 67 people had unresolved issues.

The big news at ECC this fall is the addition of civilian call-takers. In late November, a group of 10-12 civilians will begin 8 weeks of classroom didactic and practical training, followed by an intensive 8-week internship. Sometime in March, 2010, these civilians will assume the EMS and fire call-taking functions, freeing uniformed personnel to continue with radio dispatching. There are still vacancies for firefighters at the ECC, so interested personnel should contact Chief Kinsley.

Two new FCGOs became effective on November 1st. FCGO 09-19 changed the pre-alert for full assignments, and FCGO 09-20 eliminated polling and made significant changes to bidding on events. Please forward questions or comments about these changes to Chief Kinsley via your chain of command.

Personnel from ECC have returned from a 5-week temporary relocation to the Alternate ECC in Rockville while the 9-1-1 telephone switches and related computer systems were updated at the ECC. Chief Kinsley and I appreciate the professionalism of the ECC staff during this disruption.

I am pleased to announce the formal opening and dedication of the Southlawn Central Maintenance Facility (CMF) during the Month of December. The Ribbon cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, December 21st with invitations sent to the County Executive and Council members, as well as all LFRD Chiefs and Presidents, all County Department heads, and all MCFRS personnel. This is yet another key milestone in the multi-year Apparatus Management Plan. As staff rolls out the County-wide defect reporting database, the MCFRS will finally have a single source to access key data for our fleet. Kudos to all who have helped make this happen.

Special Ops and EMS are working together to publish a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for MCFRS if we are overcome by the H1N1 flu, or of any other event decreases our available workforce by 10%-30%. As you might imagine, this has caused us to do some critical thinking about issues we have not had to deal with previously. Stay tuned for more on that topic.

As we look forward to the coming months, it appears MCFRS will continue to be challenged by a dim financial outlook. Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to maintain the highest quality services possible with our available resources. All of the basics of our business are more important than ever: readiness, timely turn-out and response, safe and effective mitigation of incidents, and world-class customer service that will carry us through these difficult times.

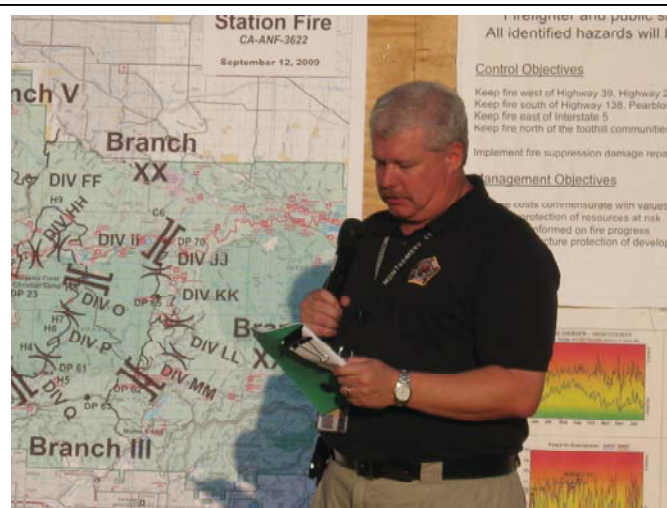
As your Operations Chief, I have the opportunity to see and hear about the great work you do, day in and day out. In the face of so many challenges, we sometimes lose sight of the forest for the trees. On behalf of the entire Operations Staff, please accept our sincere thanks for your hard work. As we begin the holiday season, I would also like to extend my personal best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy season, whatever your affiliation or faith.

Incident Management Team (IMT) Technical Assistance Program

Three personnel from MCFRS participated in a field mentoring assignment at the “Station Fire” in the Angeles National Forest. GIS Specialist Sarah Ierley, Battalion Chiefs Shane Darwick and Barry Reid joined seven other members of the National Capital Region Incident Management Team (NCR-IMT) to “shadow” selected positions of a Type 1 Team. The purpose of the deployment was to build on formal training and gain additional experience by actively participating in a complex event.

The “Station Fire” (so-named because of the Angeles Crest Ranger Station near the area of origin) was the largest fire in Los Angeles County history, and the tenth largest in California since 1933. It scorched over 160,000 acres (the size of Howard County, MD) and destroyed more than 80 homes, 14 commercial buildings, and 92 outbuildings. At one point, over 5,000 personnel were assigned to the incident, which cost nearly \$90M to mitigate.

Two firefighters lost their lives on August 30th when their vehicle went down a 700 foot embankment.



Barry Reid (Planning Section Chief Trainee) facilitates an Operational Period Briefing at the Santa Fe Dam ICP



Sarah Ierley (GIS Specialist) and Shane Darwick (Resource Unit Leader) join Dewayne Spitzer (Prince William Fire) at the Santa Fe ICP for a reconnaissance mission over the “Station Fire.”



The NCR-IMT is comprised of personnel from the Metropolitan-Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Region, with disciplines in Law Enforcement, Fire/Rescue, Public Health, Emergency Management, and other areas. It is a Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team, which is a comprehensive resource either to augment ongoing operations through provision of infrastructure support, or when requested, transition to an incident management function including all components/functions of Command and General Staff.

Field mentoring is available only for Type 3 IMTs developed under the U.S. Fire Administration's Type 3 IMT Technical Assistance Program. There are approximately 106 Type 3 IMTs across the country (50 UASI regional areas and 56 states/territories).

The team is managed through Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and is listed as a deployable asset with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). The team has been deployed to local, regional, and national events through mutual aid and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests. Training and related costs are funded by a federal grant.



NCR-IMT Members at Santa Fe Dam ICP

Pictured: Sarah Ierley, top row, second from left. Shane Darwick, bottom row, second from left, and Barry Reid, bottom row, far right.

Combat Challenge

The Montgomery County Combat Challenge Team competed October 3rd in Baltimore. Teams from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, New Jersey, Virginia, Howard County, and Anne Arundel County were on hand to give MCFRS “a run for their money.” In the end, MCFRS made a clean sweep with the top three finishers overall with Derrick Wright taking first place, Larry Murray taking second place and Mike Hoert taking third place. Congratulations!!



Pictured above are Derrick Wright, Mike Hoert, and Larry Murray

Mike Hoert dragging the 175lb Rescue Randy 100'

Kudos to Cabin John Personnel ~

An engaged couple made national news in September after the adult female briefly lost consciousness and suffered non-life threatening injuries to her head and chest when she slipped and fell down an embankment along the rugged Billy Goat Trail in Great Falls, Potomac, shortly after receiving a marriage proposal. Rescuers responded by boat and had to scale up a rocky cliff to reach her before she was airlifted for medical treatment. Responders included Captain Derrell Walker, MFF Lawrence Simmons, FF Timothy Beatty, FF Rashad Surratt, Eagle 2 with Sgt. Kevin Chittick in command, Sgt. Ken Burchell as co-pilot, and Sgt. Chris Perkins working the medic/rescue technician position to perform a hoist rescue of the patient. On September 9th, MCFRS personnel and U.S. Park Police, Aviation Section representatives, were on hand to meet the rescued couple for the first time at Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Family Support Network

The MCFRS Family Support Network (FSN) was organized soon after the MCFRS' Urban Search and Rescue Team was deployed to assist at the bombing in Oklahoma City in 1995, to provide timely and accurate information from the USAR team members to their concerned families at home. The FSN has evolved since then to become a group of family members and significant others who have completed specialized Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training and have attained certification in group, family, and individual CISM, enabling them, without compensation, to help their peers to develop individual and family resilience during and after critical incidents. By definition, a 'critical incident' is an extraordinary occurrence, natural or manmade, that is a threat to well-being, life, or property. The FSN extends its support to include all MCFRS personnel, both career and volunteer, and their families.

The FSN responds primarily to the needs of families of MCFRS firefighters who suffered illnesses and injuries, recently including those of the three MCFRS firefighters who were injured in the Twinbrook fire. In past years, several major incidents and lengthy deployments have occurred during which the FSN has provided family support, including Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, and Rita, and the September 11th terrorist attack, when our USAR Team, federally designated Maryland Task Force One, responded to the Pentagon. Several FSN members also responded to New York City after the 9/11 terrorist attack, where, for 6 months, they met with widows and firefighter liaison members from a New York ladder company that lost nine firefighters at the World Trade Center. The FSN defines its Mission and Goals as indicated below:

Mission Statement: To provide peer support to MCFRS families- career and volunteer- in difficult moments during and following critical incidents, and to help develop families' resilience at all times through CISM education and training.

GOALS:

- Develop a network of trained peers who are family members and significant others of MCFRS fire/rescue personnel.
- Develop a communications system for use during critical incidents to receive and push to families timely, accurate information, and respond to family questions.
- Provide one-on-one, group, or family interventions, in person or by phone, during critical incidents.
- Sponsor and conduct CISM training.
- Provide education and materials (video, audio, printed) to develop knowledge and skills for living and coping with the unique occupational needs and special circumstances affecting fire/rescue personnel.
- Develop a working relationship with MCFRS liaisons that will be helpful to families/fire rescue personnel during critical incidents, including obtaining SOPs, written information, and guides for coping with Critical Incidents; obtaining contact information; and making direct contacts with relevant individuals.
- Develop the Family Support Network as an inclusive organization for the entire MCFRS career and volunteer family.

In November, 2009, Chief Bowers issued a Policy establishing the Family Support Network as an official component of the MCFRS organizational structure.

Unit Citation

Fire Chief Citations were presented to Manager Richard Riffe (Division of Administrative Services, Procurement Section) and Program Manager Steve Lamphier (Division of Operations, Fleet Management Section) for their knowledge, skill, experience, and abilities that enabled the successful bridge of a contract with Baltimore County through Delmarva Pump Center with Wheeled Coach to facilitate the process that allowed MCFRS to save \$135,000 on the purchase of EMS units.



A Fire Chief's Unit Citation was presented to Battalion Chief Stephen Jones and personnel from E716, E702, T701, T712, AT719, RS742 and A716, after responding to a structure fire at 8830 Piney Branch Road, July 11, 2009. The building was occupied at the time of the fire and required the quick and efficient operations of fire crews to successfully complete several rescues.



Summer Class Graduation



After months of hard work, more than 70 volunteer fire and EMS members from various LFRDs attended the Volunteer Graduation Ceremony held at the PSTA on Friday, August 28, 2009. Division Chief Hinde and Captain Audrey Deputy presided over the event. MCVFRA President Marcine Goodloe offered heartfelt congratulations to all of the volunteers and their families. All MCFRS personnel now look forward to seeing you on calls and at the stations!



National Night Out

Volunteer members of Station 17 participated in National Night Out, a community-police partnership held on the first Tuesday of every August. This event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is aimed at increasing anti-crime efforts and town watch programs within communities. The home of Greg Albrecht (Laytonsville District Volunteer Fire Department member) and his wife, Linda, was visited by County Executive Isiah Legget, Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, and Montgomery County Maryland State's Attorney John McCarthy during the evening. The Albrechts are very active in their community Town Watch program and welcomed their neighbors on Tuesday evening. LDVFD was proud to show their support of this event.



Pictured, left to right: Mike Caver, Timmy Richards, Greg Albrecht, Ryan Gaskell, Police Chief Manger, Buddy Sutton, Ike Leggett, Troy Brazell, Lisa Lesson, Jimmy Magruder, Diego Torres, Marge Turnbow, and Dan Reid, with State Attorney John McCarthy at Mr. Leggett's left.

New LOSAP Administrator

Chief Hinde is proud to announce the selection of our new Length Of Service Awards (LOSAP) Administrator, Linda Dowdy, former Senior Executive Administrative Aide to Fire Chief Richie Bowers. Linda comes to us with 19 years of County experience, 18 of which has been with Fire/Rescue. Linda begins her new work assignment on December 6th. Please join me in making Linda feel welcome. She can be reached at 240-777-2428.



New Volunteer Recruitment Office



There is a national decline overall in fire-rescue and EMS volunteers, while at the same time there is an increased need in every community for more volunteers. The Montgomery County Volunteer Fire/Rescue Association (MCVFRA) announces the opening of the first ever volunteer fire-rescue recruiting station, to meet the needs of the 19 volunteer fire and rescue departments in Montgomery County.

“The nation’s first volunteer fire-rescue recruiting station is a novel approach to getting our residents--our community members--to become volunteers in their neighborhood volunteer fire-rescue department,” said Marcine D. Goodoe, President of the Association. “We believe this recruiting station will be critical in adding new volunteers, and growing our capabilities.”

The new store-front recruiting station, opening in November, will feature the volunteer experience with hands-on activities and the opportunity for current volunteers to answer questions and share their experiences. “This is a walk in off the street, see what you can do, and join your local fire and rescue department experience,” said Eric N. Bernard, Executive Director of the MCVFRA. “The need for volunteers has never been greater and the time has never been better for our residents to join their community volunteer department. We need you, we want you, and here is a way for you to walk in and see what you can do as a volunteer,” Bernard added.



The Recruiting Station is conveniently located near downtown Rockville, at the corner of North Washington Street and Beall Avenue. The recruiting station offers hands-on equipment, including a fire engine cab, fire hydrant and hose to hook-up, firefighting gear, and other equipment that potential volunteers can try.

“Our goal is to encourage community members to get involved in their local volunteer fire and rescue department as new volunteers,” Goodloe added.

Each of the 19 volunteer fire and rescue departments in Montgomery County offer volunteer opportunities, ranging from: fire fighting; emergency medical technicians (EMT), paramedic, and emergency medical services (EMS); dive rescue, and collapse rescue; to administrative and auxiliary services. Various skill set areas are also available from entry level experience as firefighters and EMTs up to fire chief level - all of them are volunteer positions.

Public Education



Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department Station Commander Captain Brian Fowler, Master Firefighter Mark Kessler, and injury prevention committee members of the Hyattstown VFD are working together to remind citizens that seat belts save lives.

Walk to School Day

Chief Bowers participated in the annual Walk to School Day media event with County Executive Isiah Leggett, Lt. Governor Brown, State Delegate William Bronrott, Montgomery County School Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast, County Council, and Board of Education members, Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, and Bethesda Elementary students, parents, and teachers.



National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

The Montgomery County Honor Guard and members of the Montgomery County Firefighters Pipes and Drums participated during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, October 3-4th, 2009 at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland.



Fill the Boot

County Executive Ike Leggett took time from his busy schedule to read a proclamation designating the week of August 29 - September 5, 2009 as Fire Fighter Appreciation Week in Montgomery County, Maryland. He also joined the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) officials and clients in kicking off the 2009 "Fill the Boot" Campaign, which marked the 55th year that firefighters have participated in the fundraising effort to fight neuromuscular diseases.



Nadine Pottinga, MDA - DC/MD District Fundraising Coordinator, joined County Executive Leggett, Master Firefighter Donnie Simmons, Captain Troy Lipp, Master Firefighter Mark Davies, and Chief Bowers, pictured above, along with personnel from Rockville Fire Station #31.

Montgomery County Fire Fighters presented checks totaling over \$252,000 on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon on Monday, September 7, 2009.



Master Firefighters Tim Sugrue and Donnie Simmons with a young friend.

Fill the Boot

In 1954, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association® (MDA) in the fight against neuromuscular diseases. The partnership between the devotion of firefighters and MDA has emerged as one of the strongest examples of selflessness in the history of charity.



Montgomery County's first "Fill the Boot" campaign was held in 1984, by a small group of "off duty" fire fighters at one intersection in the County, and raised \$15,000. Over the next 22 years participation grew with an increasing number of off duty fire fighters, their family members, and friends joining in the fight against neuromuscular diseases.



In 2007, through the success gained by great political efforts of Local 1664 President John Sparks, past Fire Chief Tom Carr, and then-Deputy Fire Chief Richie Bowers, permission was obtained to allow firefighters to participate in the Fill the Boot campaign while on duty. The change to an on duty campaign saw incredible results in the first year with MCFRS raising over \$235,000, more than quadrupling the total raised in 2006, and ranking Montgomery County 5th in the country for funds raised for MDA. In 2008, due to bad weather and heavy call load, Montgomery County's total dropped slightly to \$206,661, still placing Montgomery County 9th in the country.



2009 marked the 25th Anniversary that the Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association, Local 1664, and the MCFRS participated in the annual Fill the Boot campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The success of this year's campaign was the result of perfect weather conditions during all 3 days of collecting, 100% participation from every station and shift, and again, tremendous support from several of the local LFRD's, family members, and friends. The 2009 total was a record \$254,102, propelling Montgomery County to 4th place in the country, behind only Houston, TX, Fairfax, VA, and LA County, CA. All Montgomery County firefighters who have participated in the Fill the Boot throughout the years should be extremely proud of the contributions made to MDA on behalf of IAFF Local 1664 and Montgomery County!



The Muscular Dystrophy Association provides help to the families affected by a neuromuscular disease through advocacy, support groups, research, clinics, and summer camp. MDA also provides hope for a cure. Until neuromuscular disease is extinguished, it remains important that firefighters continue the time-honored tradition of Fill the Boot. Jerry's Kids deserve the help and hope that fire fighters provide.

Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR)



Jeff Feiertag, our IT Training Coordinator, reported that after several years, MCFRS has found the right computer-based replacement for the MAIS form: This fall, Battalion 4 served as a test battalion for ePCR. The new technology, RescueMedic from Emergidata, runs on a Toughbook that is also a tablet PC, and user acceptance has been high.

Battalions 3 and 5 are adopting ePCR in November, with Battalions 1 and 2 joining the rest of MCFRS in December.

With the new technology, reporting is smooth, and back-end data collection is instantaneous. To support the new software, MCFRS recently hired Brody Konkus to work in the FRS IT - PSDS group.

Training has taken a different spin for this project, offered on-line only. The e-learning course is an interactive Flash-based tutorial that takes each user through scenarios. Each student then attends a hands on testing session in which (s)he creates a report based upon a scenario provided. Testing success has been evident, with a 100% passing rate when this article was written in November. Battalion Chief Diane Zuspan leads this effort, and she is committed to excellence in the implementation. With success under way in Battalion 4, the other battalions are starting regular use of the system. She is confident the rest of the service will find ePCR to be user-friendly and a welcome fit for MCFRS.

MCTime

Paper timesheets are history since MCFRS has joined other County departments in implementing MCTime, the electronic timesheet software. MCFRS was a significant challenge for the County's MCTime group; as one of the first large departments, MCFRS required the development of major accommodations to enable the program to work efficiently. Jeff Barclay worked to incorporate Telestaff, and it took Debbie Shaw's tireless efforts to bring the whole system together.

A combined instructor-led and on-line training initiative provided the basics to MCFRS personnel, while practice sessions better prepared everyone for the transition to the paperless system. In contrast to the average two time period learning curve necessary for most other departments, it took three pay periods to ensure that all of our personnel mastered MCTime's applications that were tailored specifically for MCFRS' unique and complex program needs. After more than a year of preparation, MCFRS has fully embraced MCTime.

Photo Op for Officer McGruff and Sparky the Fire Dog

Fire Chief Richie Bowers, Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, police officers, McGruff the crime dog, and Sparky the fire dog helped test whether drivers would stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. The operation challenged drivers who were still failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, to see whether they would stop for something as visible as McGruff. Police officers were ticketing motorists who did not yield, and Sparky helped officers distribute educational materials to pedestrians who did not observe safe walking rules.



Sparky with McGruff, Police Captain Paul Starks and Sparky in the center picture, and Assistant Fire Chief Scott Graham assisting Sparky to cross in the crosswalk.

MCFRS Promotion Ceremony

MCFRS held its semi-annual Promotion Ceremony on October 26, 2009 at the PSTA. Division Chief Steve Lohr spoke as the Senior Promotee, and Master Firefighter/Rescuer Jeffrey Caudell spoke as the Junior Promotee.



Navy Med

Firefighters from Station 20, Battalion 2, and the Bethesda Fire Department Administrative Officer assisted Navy Med Fire Station #50 personnel with a special pre-Thanksgiving “Feed the Troops” event at the Bethesda Naval Hospital on November 25th. Over 600 Navy Med military and civilian personnel were fed in little more than 2 hours, with all food paid for and prepared by Navy Med firefighters, in this annual event that was coordinated by Battalion Chief 750 Mark Montgomery. All MCFRS personnel remarked that it was “an honor” to serve the troops and be able to say “thank you” for the sacrifices that they have made for our National security.



Cell phones dangerous? Watch for these symptoms

Doctors are calling it “cubital tunnel syndrome,” but it’s more commonly known as “cell phone elbow,” and experts say it’s the second most common nerve compression syndrome in the upper extremities after carpal tunnel syndrome.

Symptoms include tingling, burning, aching, or numbness in the lower half of the arm (the ulnar forearm—the region between elbow and wrist, facing away from the body when you bend the arm to touch your shoulder).

The symptoms usually arise after prolonged cell phone use. The easiest way to get rid of it? Switch hands.

Remind everyone you know to exercise caution

“Safety is no accident” is such a well-known safety slogan that it’s become a cliché’. If you’re looking for newer, fresher reminders for employees, co-workers, and loved ones, check out this list:

Work safely today and every day

Think safety - it couldn’t hurt

If it’s predictable, it’s preventable

Safety is free

Make safety a reality

Safety is our goal--what’s yours?

Tomorrow -- Your reward for working safely today

The safe way is the only way

Famous last words: “Hey, wanna see something cool?”

Safety has no timeout

Safety isn’t just a slogan, it’s a way of life

Invest in tomorrow. Practice safety today

Upcoming Events

December 15, 2009, 11:30 a.m. Headquarters Holiday Luncheon

December 21, 2009, 10:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the MCFRS Central Maintenance Facility

January 27th, 2010 11:30 a.m. POTS Luncheon

March 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m. Recruit Class #34 Graduation

March 12, 2010, 11:30 a.m. Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards

Proud Old Timers (POTS) ~

Approximately 80 Proud Old Timers (POTS) attended their quarterly luncheon at the new Central Maintenance Facility (Southlawn) on September 22nd. Chief Bowers welcomed the retirees and thanked them for their dedication, personal sacrifices, and outstanding work that has contributed to the success of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service. In closing, Chief Bowers called for a moment of silence to honor the retired firefighters who had passed away. After the POTS group photograph, the retirees toured the Southlawn Central Maintenance Facility.



Florida Branch Proud Old Timers (POTS) ~

Jack Walters recently sent photos and news that Tim Payne has been named by the Knights of Columbus as Fire Service Employee of the Year. He is the Fire Inspector for Kissimmee Fire Department. As a result, the Florida POTS honored him with the 1st Florida POTS Award.



Blast from the Past...



Pictured left to right: Charlie Donaldson, who was the training officer for Silver Spring, Genie Helbert, Jim Miles, and LeRoy Oettinger.

EMS Action Shots - Layhill and Norbeck Roads

